a warehouse in the Rue de Bussy at Paris, were more or less severely affected, and one killed, in consequence of an accidental leak near the main stop-cock of the service-pipe. They went to bed about half-past ten, and about two, one of them who slept on the ground floor was awakened by the smell of the gas, and a sense of approaching stupor. He immediately alarmed his companions, who slept on various floors above, and found them all in a state of profound sleep, and when awoke excessively lethargic. Of the five individuals, four recovered, and appear to have never been in great danger from the moment that they were freely bled from the arm. The fifth was heard moaning by the man who gave the alarm, and found insensible and incapable of being roused, with froth issuing from the mouth, vomiting, and spasmodic convulsions. A physician was immediately procured, who found all the symptoms of great oppression of the brain, complete coma, froth at the mouth, redness of the face, stertorous respiration, and dilated pupils. An unsuccessful attempt was made to bleed him from the arm. Five-and-twenty leeches were then applied to each side of the neck; and as they filled, the wound in the vein of the arm began to bleed, while at the same time, the patient recovered his senses a little, and complained of being too soon awakened. His breathing, however, continued laborious, no further amendment took place, vomiting recurred between five and seven in the morning, and he died at eight, six hours after the alarm was given.

When the body was examined next day, putrefaction had just commenced. The limbs, however, were extremely rigid. There was a good deal of pale lividity on different parts. The countenance was pale and not bloated, and the lips were not discoloured. The vessels of the dura mater discharged much blood when the skull-cap was removed; the vessels of the arachnoid were much gorged; and the substance of the brain presented an unusual number of red points when cut; but there was little serosity in the ventricles. The lungs were little distended, the left united to the pleura of the ribs by old adhesions, rather pale in colour anteriorly, and not at all gorged. The right lung, on the contrary, was violet-coloured, the edges of its lobules emphysematous, its substance red, gorged with blood, and yielding much froth when squeezed. The membrane of the windpipe was in general white, and contained a good deal of froth. In the right bronchial tube there was a French bean of ordinary size; entire, boiled, and which had evidently proceeded from the stomach. There was no particular appearance in the heart and great vessels, except that the blood was every where completely and firmly coagulated. The surface of the intestines was reddish. The stomach contained fragments of French beans, which the deceased had taken for supper. The liver had entirely changed its appearance, and acquired a greenish-slate colour, and an unusually firm consistence. It appears probable from the dissection and symptoms antecedent to death, that the fatal issue of the case was rather owing to the obstruction of the right lung by the bean, than to poisoning with the gas.—*Edinburgh Med. and Surg. Jour. Oct.* 1830, *from the Annales d'Hygiène Publique et de Médecine-Légale, Juillet*, 1830.

MEDICAL STATISTICS.

63. *Report of the Coombe Lying-in Hospital.* By RICHARD REED GREGORY, Esq.—Since the opening of this institution on the 3d of February, 1829, 691 patients have been delivered in the hospital, of whom nine died. The presentations were as follows:—natural 645; face 2; breech 14; feet 7; arm 3; shoulder 1; funis 7; twin cases 12; total 691.

"In two of the twin cases the breech presented, in two others the head; in one the first child presented with the head, the second with the feet; in another the first child with the breech, the second with the arm; the other six were presentations of the head and breech.

"The following table exhibits the number of births, and the sex of the children, arranged according to the age of the mother, from fifteen to forty-five inclusive, taking an average of every five years.

From	Males.	Females.	Total of Births.	Still born.		Total Still Born.
				Males.	Females.	
15 to 20	19	15	34	2	2	4
20 to 25	114	93	207	14	6	20
25 to 30	100	88	188	9	7	16
30 to 35	106	79	185	10	2	12
35 to 40	33	23	56	1	1	2
40 to 45	15	17	32	0	1	1
45 to 50	0	1	1	0	0	0
	387	316	703	36	19	55

"Of the still born children there were 29 premature, 2 abortions, 3 arm presentations, 3 natural cases, 3 crotchet cases, 4 cases of prolapse of the funis, 3 feet presentations, and 4 breech ditto: of the 12 cases of twins, four children were still born, making a total of 55 deaths. Premature labour is a circumstance of very frequent occurrence among the women residing in this district of the city, owing to their irregularity of living, and the brutal treatment they often receive from their husbands.

"Of the arm cases, one did not come into hospital until twenty-four hours after the waters had drained off, and the child had been forced into the pelvis by the violent action of the uterus, which continued after her admission, so as to render turning impracticable. Spontaneous evolution, (as it is termed by Dr. Denman,) took place in this case in nine hours after her admission. The patient recovered without a bad symptom.

"Another was admitted in the eighth month of pregnancy; she was seized with labour the day before, and the waters had been discharged for four hours previous to her admission. No difficulty, however, was experienced in turning, and the woman recovered rapidly."

The third arm case was a second child in an instance of twins.

"Of the crotchet cases.—The operation in one instance was had recourse to in consequence of deformed pelvis, and the length of time she had been in labour previous to her admission, besides which there were unequivocal evidence of the child's death. The operation was performed with ease, and the child extracted with perfect safety to the mother, but very unfavourable symptoms soon showed themselves, and ultimately sloughing of the neck of the uterus and adjoining parts took place, which caused her death fourteen days after delivery.

"Another was a soldier's wife, who had been in labour four days previous to her being sent into hospital, during which time she said she had not passed water: the bladder was greatly distended. The operation of embryotomy was had recourse to immediately after her admission; the head being so impacted in the pelvis as to prevent the use of the forceps. When the child was extracting, it was found to be very much enlarged from putrefaction: she lived for nearly three weeks, having laboured under a continued hoarseness, and nearly loss of voice. These symptoms existed at the time of her admission. On examination after death there was ulceration of the chordæ vocales, and evident inflammation of the mucous membrane of the bronchial tubes. The uterus had two small abscesses in its substance. The third was operated on in consequence of the length of time, eighteen hours, the head had been in the cavity of the pelvis, without the slightest advance, though the labour-pains continued violent, and after the forceps had been tried. This woman speedily recovered

"Of the funis presentations.—Two cases occurred in women who had come a considerable distance on foot, from the country, to be confined; a large portion of the cord was down, and pulsation had ceased previous to admission.

"In the third case of funis presentation, the discharge of the waters, and the falling down of the funis were the first symptoms which attracted the patient's notice, the former having fallen considerably below the external parts without any previous pain.

"Of the footling cases, one was an acephalous fœtus, and the cord presented along with the foot. Of the breech presentations, three were cases of premature labour.

"The following is a brief account of the remaining seven cases of death which occurred:—

"Mary Nowlan died of rheumatic fever a fortnight after delivery.

"Mary Cullen died of hæmorrhage, occurring immediately after the expulsion of the child. Her death was almost instantaneous.

"Margaret Butler died in consequence of inflammation of the uterus and some of the adjacent parts.

"Judith Riley was extremely delicate on coming into hospital. Inflammation and sloughing of the upper and inner part of the uterus took place, which was not suspected during her lifetime; after death, on cutting into the diseased part, (which was not much greater in extent than the size of a crown piece,) it had much the characters of anthrax.

"Mary M'Dermot died of consumption three days after delivery, which she had been labouring under for a long period previous to her admission.

"Mary Maguire was admitted on the night of the 24th of July, 1830, and was delivered in two hours after. She was so ill from chest disease, apparently phthisis, that it was thought she could not survive the delivery. She died three hours afterwards; no examination was allowed.

"Judith Foy was labouring under bronchitis on her admission, which rapidly increased after her delivery: she sunk in two days.

"In one instance premature labour was induced, in consequence of contracted pelvis, in a woman named Mary Fox, of diminutive stature. About fourteen hours after the evacuation of the liquor amnii, she had a severe rigor, which lasted for an hour. In twelve hours after, slight labour pains occurred, these continued for about nine hours, when she was delivered. The child was born alive, but died in an hour.—*Dublin Hospital Reports, Vol. V.*

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64. *Influence of certain occupations on the development of Phthisis Pulmonalis.*—M. Benoiston de Chateauneuf, has communicated to the Royal Academy of Sciences of Paris, some very interesting statistical researches on this subject. From the report of M. Dumeril, made at the meeting of the sixteenth of December last, we derive the following particulars:

Those persons engaged in the construction of gun-flints, first engaged the attention of M. Benoiston. He had understood that the mortality among this class of workmen was very great, principally attributed to the frequent development of phthisis pulmonalis, or by the destruction of the lungs, by suppuration. This branch of labour is carried on in the environs of St. Aignan, in the commune of Meusnes. M. B. has consulted the registers of this commune, and during a period of sixteen years, (from 1812 to 1828,) he has noticed 700 births and 515 deaths. He afterwards obtained two necrological tables of the same village, for two periods of thirty years each; one before, and the other since the establishment of the manufacture of gun-flints. In the first, from 1680 to 1709, the mean population was 415 souls; the births were then as 1 to 24.08; the deaths as 1 to 33.24, so that the mean duration of life was nearly twenty-four years and three months. But from 1760 to 1790, a period at which the manufacture was in operation, the mean population was 1850 souls: the births were 1 in 22.78; and the deaths 1 in 29.60; so that the generation was reduced one-half before five years, instead of nineteen years and two months. This great mortality will naturally be attributed to the continual inspiration of the dust, which is produced in forming the gun-flints.

M. Benoiston has pushed his researches further, and endeavoured to ascertain the influence of various occupations, which expose those engaged in it, either to an atmosphere charged with dust, or to laborious exertion or constrained postures.

These occupations, to the number of forty, are divided into seven classes: the males and females are considered separately. From the records of three of the hospitals of Paris, in which 43,010 patients were admitted within five consecutive years, from 1821 to 1826, Mr. B. has made out the following statement:

1st. Professions which subject the lungs to the action of an atmosphere charged with vegetable particles.

Males.	Starch makers,	died of	pulmonary	consumption,	1.02	per cent.
	Bakers,	"	"	"	2.07	
	Coiliers,	"	"	"	3.73	
	Porters,	"	"	"	2.43	
	Rag pickers,	"	"	"	0.84	
	Workers in cotton,		"	"	1.88	
	Winders,	"	"	"	—	
	Spinners,	"	"	"	2.35	
	Mean mortality,	"	"	"	2.07	
Females.	Rag pickers,	"	"	"	1.68	
	Workers in cotton,		"	"	2.72	
	Winders,	"	"	"	3.42	
	Spinners,	"	"	"	1.61	
	Mean mortality,	"	"	"	2.19	

2d. Professions which subject the lungs to the action of mineral particles.

Males.	Quarriers,	"	"	"	1.46	per cent.
	Masons and hodmen,		"	"	2.22	
	Marble cutters,	"	"	"	1.25	
	Plasterers,	"	"	"	2.53	
	Stone cutters,	"	"	"	0.90	
	Mean mortality,	"	"	"	1.95	

3d. Professions which subject the lungs to the action of an atmosphere charged with animal molecules.

Males.	Brush-makers,		"	"	3.53	per cent.
	Wool-carders and mattrass-makers,			"	3.10	
	Hatters,	"	"	"	4.78	
	Feather men,	"	"	"	7.69	
	Mean mortality,	"	"	"	4.46	

Females.	Brush-makers, died of pulmonary consumption,				7.76	per cent.
	Wool-carders and mattrass makers,			"	2.43	
	Hatters,	"	"	"	0.55	
	Feather women,		"	"	11.47	
	Mean mortality,	"	"	"	3.39	

4th. Professions which expose the lungs to the action of an atmosphere charged with injurious vapours.

Males.	Gilders,	"	"	"	5.32	per cent.
	Decorative painters,		"	"	2.17	
	Chimney doctors,		"	"	3.34	
	Mean mortality,	"	"	"	2.87	
Females.	Gilders,	"	"	"	5.61	

5th. Professions which expose the body, and especially the lower extremities, to the action of moisture.

Males.	Bleachers,	"	"	"	1.83	per cent.
Females.	Ditto,	"	"	"	4.50	

6th. Professions which subject the muscles of the chest and superior extremities to painful and continual exercise.

Males.	Weavers,	"	"	"	2.13	per cent.
	Gauze-makers,		"	"	3.18	
	Carpenters,	"	"	"	1.49	
	Joiners,	"	"	"	3.08	
	Blacksmiths and Farriers,			"	0.93	
	Locksmiths,	"	"	"	0.74	
	Water carriers,	"	"	"	2.41	
	Sawers of stone,		"	"	1.12	
	Mean mortality,	"	"	"	2.12	
Females.	Weavers,	"	"	"	1.84	
	Gauze-makers,	"	"	"	3.16	
	Mean mortality,	"	"	"	2.64	

7th. Professions which subject the muscles of the chest and of the arms to continual action, and the body to bent attitudes.

Males.	Writers,	"	"	"	4.73	per cent.
	Jewellers,	"	"	"	6.23	
	Taylors,	"	"	"	4.67	
	Shoemakers,	"	"	"	4.29	
	Fringe and Lace makers,		"	"	4.69	
	Glass cutters,	"	"	"	6.14	
	Polishers,	"	"	"	4.44	
	Mean mortality,	"	"	"	4.84	
Females.	Jewellers,	"	"	"	13.33	
	Tayloresses,	"	"	"	4.58	
	Shoemakers,	"	"	"	5.54	
	Fringe and Lace makers,		"	"	4.68	

Females.	Polishers,	died of	pulmonary	consumption,	3.83 per cent.
	Embroiderers,	"	"	"	8.60
	Sempstresses,	"	"	"	5.48
	Florists,	"	"	"	——
	Lace makers,	"	"	"	6.20
	Glove makers,	"	"	"	6.46
	Stocking darners,		"	"	6.11
Mean mortality,		"	"	"	5.66

Mean mortality of the whole, 3.61 per cent.—*Archives Générales and Revue Médicale, Dec.* 1830.

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65. *Influence of certain Professions in the Production of Phthisis Pulmonalis.*—Dr. Lombard, of Geneva, has been engaged in some interesting observations on this subject, and his results correspond remarkably with those of M. Bénoiston de Chateauneuf. His documents are derived in part from the registers of the Parisian and other hospitals, and in part from the bills of mortality of the city of Geneva, in which bills the profession of the deceased and the causes of death are carefully registered. Dr. Lombard has observed, that the inhalation of vegetable are much less injurious than mineral powders. Thus, the frequency of death from phthisis being in Geneva, 0.20 in millers; it attains the enormous proportion of 0.67 in plasterers. He has also been struck with the deleterious influence of certain emanations which appears to him to be the cause of this disease in a great number of workmen of a certain description, such as hatters, varnishers of paintings, and enamellers, and he found the mortality from consumption was 0.42 at Vienna, and 0.31 at Geneva, among the hatters; 0.32 in varnishers; and 0.25 in enamellers. Concussions of the thorax appear to exercise little influence in the production of phthisis pulmonalis; he has found that occupations which require considerable movements of the arms are less exposed than others to contract this disease, and that in the ratio of 0.118 to 0.207 in Geneva, and in that of 0.252 to 0.286 in Vienna.—*Archives Générales, Jan.* 1831.

CHEMISTRY.

66. *On the state of Mercury in Mercurial Ointment.* By M. Mitocherlich.—The mercurial ointment employed, occupied four weeks in preparing; part of it was set to dissolve at a moderate temperature in alcohol containing caustic potash in solution. The mercury was separated in the metallic state, and formed one globule at the bottom of the vessel; the solution was filtered, and the metal was carefully removed from beneath the filter; a white matter remained, which was not removed by washing, and which heated in a tube gave no metallic mercury, nor did it sublime.

From this experiment it appears that the ointment does not contain oxide, but metallic mercury. To be certain whether by the reäction of the alcohol and potash the oxide had not been reduced, the following experiment was made:—1.101 gramme of protoxide of mercury was triturated for a long time with lard. The ointment thus prepared was subjected to alcohol, mixed with potash as in the preceding experiment. The portion remaining undissolved, had not the least appearance of metallic mercury, it weighed 1.196: submitted to distillation with muriatic acid, no metallic mercury appeared, but 1.29 gramme of proto-chloride of mercury, equivalent to 1.089 of proto-oxide of mercury. A small portion of the sediment, when heated, did not sublime.—*Philosophical Magazine, Jan.* 1831, *from Hensman's Repertoire, August,* 1830.

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67. *On the Existence of Hydrocyanic Acid in Cheese.*—Dr. Witling has undertaken a series of experiments to ascertain the nature of the changes which